



RADICALISATION AND EXTREMISM POLICY

(February 2017)

Rationale

In today's modern world, children and young people may be exposed to many radical and extremist views, both through the people they may meet and through a wide range of media. However, dealing with violent extremism is nothing new. Throughout history there have been groups prepared to use violence to achieve their aims. A small minority seek to radicalise young people with an ideology which justifies the use of violence. While violent extremism influenced by faith-based extremists currently pose the greatest threat to life, other forms of extremism and prejudice are also affecting individuals and communities across the country and can be a catalyst for alienation and disaffection and potentially lead to violence. Extremists of all persuasions try to paint the world as black and white, accentuating division and difference, and exploiting fears based on ignorance or prejudice. Education can be a powerful weapon against this, equipping young people with the knowledge, skills and reflex to think for themselves, to challenge and to debate; and giving young people the opportunity to learn about different cultures and faiths and, crucially, to gain an understanding of the values we share. Exploring ideas, developing a sense of identity and forming views are a normal part of growing up. Schools can support young people in this: providing a safe environment for discussing controversial topics.

Lawn Manor Academy values freedom of speech and the expression of beliefs / ideology as fundamental rights underpinning our society's [British] values. However, freedom comes with responsibility and free speech that is designed to manipulate the vulnerable or that leads to violence and harm of others goes against the moral principles in which freedom of speech is valued. Free speech is not an unqualified privilege; it is subject to laws and policies governing equality, human rights, community safety and community cohesion. The normalisation of extreme views may make children and young people vulnerable to future manipulation and exploitation.

Lawn Manor Academy is clear that this exploitation and radicalisation should be viewed as a safeguarding concern.

Statutory Duties

The duty to prevent children and young people being radicalised is set out in the following documents.

- Counter Terrorism and Security Act (2015)
- Keeping Children Safe in Education (September 2016)
- Prevent Duty Guidance (2015)
- Working Together to Safeguard Children (2015)

Our school's "Prevent Policy" draws upon the guidance contained in the "Prevent Strategy" and DfE Guidance "Keeping Children Safe in Education, September 2016" (Annex A).

1) Internet Safety

The internet provides children and young people with access to a wide-range of content, some of which is harmful. Extremists use the internet, including social media, to share their messages. The SWGFL filtering systems used in our school blocks inappropriate content, including extremist content. We also filter out social media, such as Facebook.

Where staff, pupils or visitors find unblocked extremist content they must report it to a senior member of staff.

We are aware that children and young people have access to unfiltered internet when using their mobile phones and staff are alert to the need for vigilance when pupils are using their phones.

2) Staff Training and pupil awareness

Staff will be given training to help them understand the issues of radicalisation, are able to recognise the signs of vulnerability or radicalisation and know how to refer their concerns. This information forms part of induction safeguarding training. Frontline staff and Senior Leaders are updated as necessary in regular safeguarding briefings.

All staff were WRAP trained in January 2016. All staff are issued with KCSIE (Sept. 2016), the Safeguarding policy and a copy of this policy. The Safeguarding policy includes the flowchart guidance

Pupils are exposed to the following themes through the curriculum, assemblies, and specific collapsed learning days with outside speakers.

Any colleague with concerns should immediately inform the Deputy Headteacher & Designated Safeguarding Lead (DSL), or the Headteacher or Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead in their absence.

The School has an internal referral process whereby staff and pupils can flag up any concerns they have around radicalisation and extremism. The concern is logged and a timeline started. The Police and Social Services will be contacted. The School has a risk assessment in place and also identifies pupils who may be at risk of Radicalisation and Extremism.

Signs of vulnerability

There are no known definitive indicators that a young person is vulnerable to radicalisation, but there are number of signs that together increase the risk. Signs of vulnerability include:

- underachievement
- being in possession of extremist literature
- poverty
- social exclusion
- traumatic events
- global or national events
- religious conversion
- change in behaviour
- extremist influences
- conflict with family over lifestyle
- confused identify
- victim or witness to race or hate crimes
- rejection by peers, family, social groups or faith

3) Recognising Extremism

Early indicators of radicalisation or extremism may include:

- showing sympathy for extremist causes
- glorifying violence, especially to other faiths or cultures
- making remarks or comments about being at extremist events or rallies outside school
- evidence of possessing illegal or extremist literature
- advocating messages similar to illegal organisations or other extremist groups
- out of character changes in dress, behaviour and peer relationships (but there are also very powerful narratives, programmes and networks that young people can come across online so involvement with particular groups may not be apparent.)
- secretive behaviour
- online searches or sharing extremist messages or social profiles
- intolerance of difference, including faith, culture, gender, race or sexuality
- graffiti, art work or writing that displays extremist themes
- attempts to impose extremist views or practices on others
- verbalising anti-Western or anti-British views
- advocating violence towards others

4) Monitoring and Review

This is not a statutory policy and will be reviewed at an appropriate time not later than two years after ratification by the governing body.

Roles And Responsibilities Of The Designated Safeguarding Lead

- Ensuring that staff of the school are aware of who the DSL and Deputy & Assistant DSLs are and their role in relation to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Maintaining and applying a good understanding of the relevant guidance in relation to preventing pupils from becoming involved in terrorism, and protecting them from radicalisation by those who support terrorism or forms of extremism which lead to terrorism;
- Raising awareness within the school about the safeguarding processes relating to protecting pupils from radicalisation and involvement in terrorism;
- Acting as the first point of contact within the school for case discussions relating to pupils who may be at risk of radicalisation or involved in terrorism;
- Collating relevant information from in relation to referrals of vulnerable pupils into the Channel* process;
- attending Channel* meetings as necessary and carrying out any actions as agreed;
- Sharing any relevant additional information in a timely manner

* Channel is a multi-agency approach to provide support to individuals who are at risk of being drawn into terrorist related activity and it aims to:

- Establish an effective multi-agency referral and intervention process to identify vulnerable individuals;
- Safeguard individuals who might be vulnerable to being radicalised, so that they are not at risk of being drawn into terrorist-related activity; and
- Provide early intervention to protect and divert people away from the risks they face and reduce vulnerability.

If deemed necessary, serious incidents will be discussed and referred to the Prevent Team at Wiltshire Police.

Appendices

- **Appendix A – School Risk Assessment**
- **Appendix B – Radicalisation - Advice for Parents / Carers**
- **Appendix C – Radicalisation – Advice for Staff**
- **Appendix D – Flowchart to record concerns**

The Radicalisation and Extremism Policy should be read in conjunction with other relevant policies:-

- Behaviour for Learning
- Anti-Bullying
- Child Protection & Safeguarding

Policy adopted from Churchfields Academy on 1st September 2017

This policy will be reviewed annually.

Policy Updated: February 2017

Staff responsible: Deputy Headteacher & Lead Pastoral

Ratified and approved by the SLT: March 2017

Due for review: March 2018